

Message Text

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TAGS: CGEN, CFED, UR, US (MENDELSON, MARTIN)(BELOTE, THOMAS)

SUBJECT: INS NEWS RELEASE ON MENDELSON TRIP

REF: MOSCOW 15784

1. FYI PRESS RELEASE WHICH INS PLANS TO RELEASE JULY 10
FOLLOWS:
2. "TWO IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE OFFICIALS
LEFT TODAY FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO MEET WITH SOVIET
OFFICIALS AND INTERVIEW WITNESSES IN INS CASES AGAINST
ALLEGED NAZI WAR CRIMINALS RESIDING IN THE US.
3. "INS COMMISSIONER LEONEL J. CASTILLO SAID THE TWO
OFFICIALS ARE MARTIN MENDELSON, HEAD OF THE INS SPECIAL
LITIGATION UNIT WHICH HANDLES WAR CRIMINAL CASES, AND
THOMAS BELOTE, A SPECIAL ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY WHO IS
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ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT.

4. "THEY WILL GO TO RIGA, LATVIA TO INTERVIEW PERSONS
ALREADY IDENTIFIED BY THE SOVIETS AS WITNESSES AGAINST
SEVERAL PEOPLE ACCUSED OF WAR CRIMES.
5. "INS HAS CASES IN PROGRESS AGAINST ELEVEN PERSONS

ACCUSED OF ENTERING THE US AND/OR ACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP ILLEGALLY BECAUSE THEY LIED ABOUT THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN WAR CRIMES. SEVEN OF THESE ARE NATURALIZED CITIZENS, WHO MUST FIRST BE STRIPPED OF THEIR CITIZENSHIP BY A US COURT BEFORE DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS CAN BEGIN. TWO OF THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRIED, WITH A DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT HANDED DOWN IN ONE CASE AND A DECISION PENDING IN THE OTHER.

6. "THE OTHER FOUR CASES INVOLVE PERSONS IN THE US WHO NEVER ACQUIRED CITIZENSHIP, AND DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS ARE IN PROGRESS AGAINST THEM.

7. "THE US GOVERNMENT CAN TAKE NO ACTION AGAINST PERSONS ACCUSED OF WAR CRIMES IN OTHER COUNTRIES OTHER THAN TO REMOVE THEIR CITIZENSHIP AND DEPORT THEM." VANCE

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